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Wednesday, March 30, 2016 metro.us | t: MetroNewYork | f: MetroNewYorl

‘PROPERTY BROS’ TO THE RESCUE

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GETTY IMAGES

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3 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

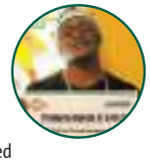
NC AG WON'T DEFEND TRANSGENDER BATHROOM LAW

The North Carolina Attorney General's office said it would not defend a new state law being challenged in federal court by opponents who say it discriminates against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. Attorney General Roy Cooper on Tuesday called the measure shameful and unconstitutional. It requires transgender people to use bathrooms that match the gender on their birth certificate rather than the one with which they identify. "Not only is this new law a national embarrassment, it will set North Carolina's economy back if we don't repeal it," Cooper said at a news conference. Senate Leader Phil Berger, a Republican, fired back with a statement calling for Cooper to resign from office for refusing to defend the state against the lawsuit. REUTERS

US PERSONNEL ORDERED TO LEAVE TURKEY AMID SECURITY CONCERNS

2 The Obama administration ordered the families of U.S. military, diplomatic and other government personnel to leave parts of southern Turkey on Tuesday and warned U.S. citizens against travel to the region amid mounting concerns over security. The U.S. military's European Command said it had ordered the departure of families of personnel stationed in Adana, including Incirlik air base, which is used heavily in the fight against Islamic State militants. It said families of military personnel also had been told to leave Izmir and Mugla provinces. The decision was authorized by U.S. Defense Secretary Ash Carter, a statement from European Command said. REUTERS

SEVEN CHARGED IN HOME INVASION MURDER OF LOTTERY WINNER



3 Seven people have been charged in the murder of a 20-year-old forklift operator who was killed in his home two months after winning nearly a half million dollars in a Georgia state lottery, police and media reports said. Craigory Burch was shot dead in Fitzgerald, Georgia, in January after masked intruders blasted open his door with a shotgun, WALB television reported. Burch had won $434,272 in a Fantasy 5 jackpot in November 2015, local news outlets reported. Burch was a "pre-selected target" of a home invasion, the Ben Hill County Sheriff's Office said in a statement on Monday. It did not provide a motive for the killing, or whether or not Burch was singled out because of his lottery winnings. REUTERS

NYC-based company wants to bring families 'clothes'-er

Kidbox sends clothes to parents based on a questionnaire about kids and their preferences. KIDBOX

The goal of Kidbox is to give parents more time with their children and to donate clothes to 1 million needy children.

ANGY ALTAMIRANO
@MetroNewYork
letters@metro.us

One New York City-based company is looking to help parents take the hassle out of shopping with their children and allow them to enjoy some family time — while also lending a helping hand.

Kidbox is a kid's style box that gives parents the chance to get the latest styles for their children, without having to travel to the store.

After selecting a certain style for their child, Kidbox customizes a selection of clothing items for each kid and a box filled with the items — which are all a surprise — is delivered.

Along with dressing kids in the latest fashion, Kidbox also allows families to share some time together while opening the surprise box and seeing what is inside.

"Let's give them more time, let's create this idea of this surprise in a box that is delivered, actually addressed to the child, gift-wrapped in a way that is exciting and have this together time with mom and kids," said Haim Dabah, founder of Kidbox.

Dabah — who worked in the retail fashion and apparel industry for 30 years — added that he decided to start the company after walking through stores and seeing how difficult it was for parents to shop with kids. He also saw the success of similar companies, which adhere to customizing outfits for adults, such as Trunk Club.

The way Kidbox works is parents answer a questionnaire about their child and their preferences, which is used to customize items that will be placed inside the box.

Each box contains six to seven handpicked pieces from a variety of high-end brands and also includes some complimentary "surprise" items.

Once the box arrives at home, Kidbox encourages parents and children to unpack the items together and share in the "unpacking happiness."

Families then have seven days to decide if they want to keep everything in the box or just some pieces, and also exchange sizes. Parents will be charged only for the items kept — which, for all items, would be $98 plus tax.

Kidbox is not a subscription service, so parents can decide to add more boxes or cancel at any time.

While making shopping easier and giving parents this time to spend with their children, Kidbox also wants to inspire kids to be socially responsible.

"It has the surprise element, the life, the discovery and the social responsibility, and bringing these two things together is what makes it unique."
Dabah

"It has the surprise element, the life, the discovery and the social responsibility and bringing these two things together is what makes it unique," Dabah said. "We're packing happiness."

Once parents decide to keep the box, for every Kidbox purchased, the company will donate a new outfit to a child in need through its partnership with K.I.D.S./Fashion Delivers — the largest nonprofit dedicated to collecting and distributing new clothing to children in need across the country.

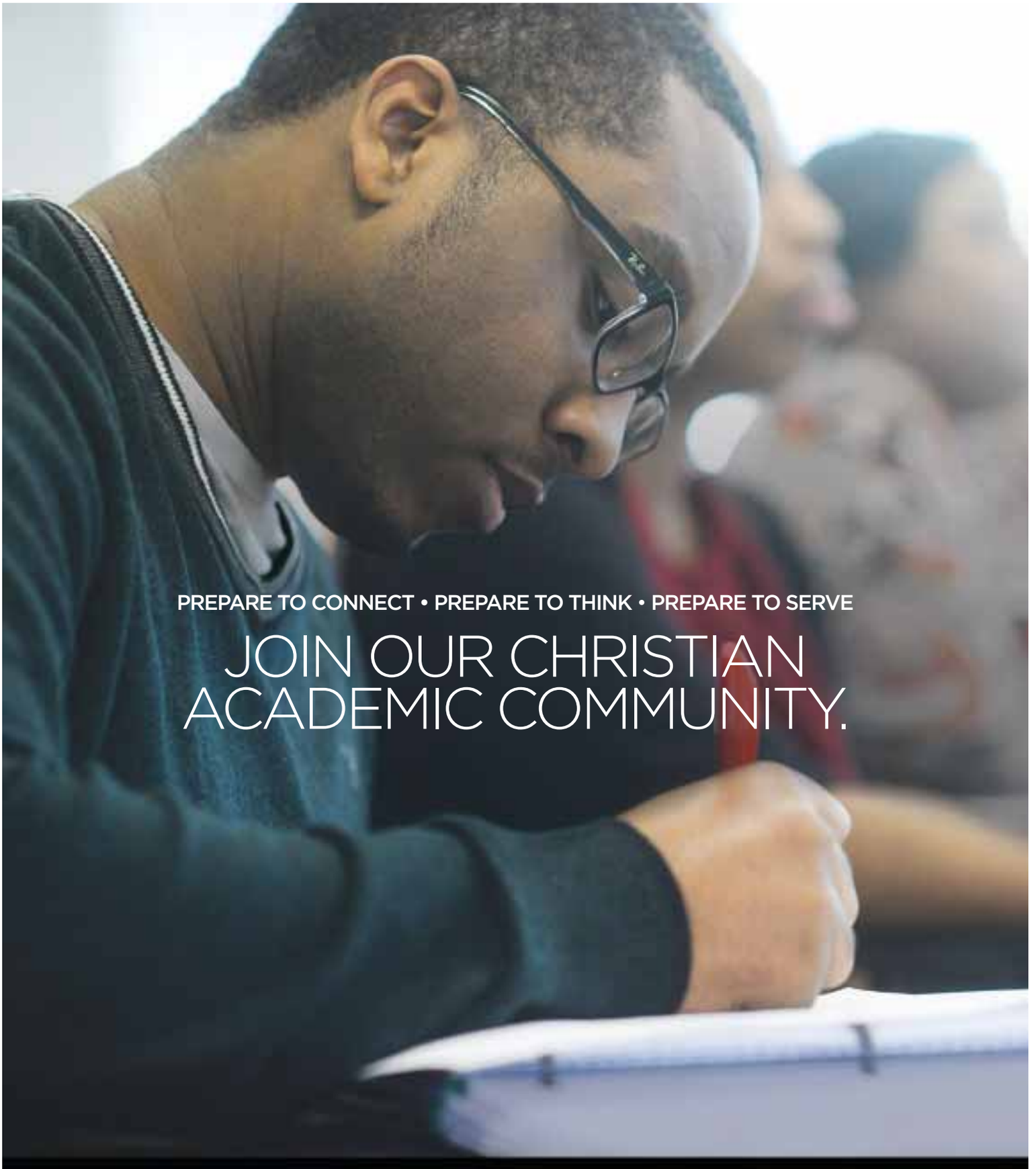
"When [the child in need] gets an opportunity to get new clothing, it changes their point of view, gives them a total different level of confidence," said Dabah, who serves on the board of K.I.D.S./Fashion Delivers.

Parents and their children will be able to select the specific cause they would like to make the donation to — such as disaster relief, homelessness and more — and also enabling a conversation on giving to begin.

Dabah said the goal of Kidbox is to donate clothes to 1 million needy children.

"It promotes the conversation and perhaps it might be the very first conversation [parents] might have with the child about giving," Dabah said. "We really want to empower kids to give."

For more information, visit www.kidbox.com.



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New York City taxi drivers could get new rules on how to interact with customers. GETTY IMAGES

New York City taxis to crack down on sexual harassment

Rule changes proposed by the Taxi and Limousine Commission concerning improper taxi conversations will aim to eliminate mentions of sexual acts, gender or physical appearance.

The commission's updated language would clarify definitions surrounding unallowable sexual subject matter and help drivers avoid unacceptable behavior, according to an Associated Press article reported by ABC7.

Also among the proposals are various levels of fines and punishments for drivers who are inappropriate with passengers, including a $1,000 fine, three points on a driver's license and a 30-day suspension for sexual harassment, according to the ABC7 AP article.

Sexual contact with a passenger would bring the driver a $2,000 fine and mandatory revocation, according to CBS2.

"Our business is just to drive — mind my own business, talk to the customer if the customer wants to talk," one taxi driver was quoted by CBS2 when asked about the proposed upcoming rule changes.

A hearing has been scheduled for April 21 to allow taxi officials an opportunity to discuss the proposed rules, CBS2 added. JASON NUCKOLLS

BRIEF

NYPD: Sketch shows suspect who punched jogger at Bronx park

The NYPD is asking for the public's help in identifying one of two suspects who they say attacked a jogger last week as he went through a park in the Bronx.

On March 22 at about 7:15 p.m. the 29-year-old victim came face-to-face with the two suspects as he was running on the Putnam Trail inside of Van Cortlandt Park, according to police.

The first suspect — described as a Hispanic man — distracted the victim while the second — described as a black man — punched him on the right side of his face with an unknown object, cops said. The victim suffered a two-inch cut to his right cheek as a result of the attack and the suspect fled northbound on the trail.

The first suspect is described as being between 20 to 30 years old and last seen wearing a dark colored hooded sweater.

Police have released a sketch of the second suspect who is believed to be between 20 to 30 years old, 6 feet 1 inch to 6 feet 2 inches tall, with a slim build and a small afro. He was last seen wearing a red hooded sweater.

Anyone with information in regards to this incident is asked to call the NYPD's Crime Stoppers Hotline at 1-800-577-TIPS (8477) or for Spanish, 1-888-57-PISTA (74782).

The public can also submit their tips by logging onto the Crime Stoppers website or by texting their tips to 274637 (CRIMES) then enter TIP577. ANGY ALTAMIRANO

Apple's battle with feds still on in Brooklyn

Although the government dropped its suit in the San Bernardino case, similar cases around the country are not resolved.

The Department of Justice will disclose over the next two weeks whether it will continue with its bid to compel Apple Inc. to help access an iPhone in a Brooklyn drug case, according to a court filing on Tuesday.

The Justice Department this week withdrew a similar request in California, saying it had succeeded in unlocking an iPhone used by one of the shooters involved in a rampage in San Bernardino in December without Apple's help.

Prosecutors have not said whether that technique would work for other seized iPhones, including the one at issue in Brooklyn. Law enforcement officials across the country have said they have encountered Apple devices they cannot access.

A federal magistrate in Brooklyn last month ruled that he did not have authority to order Apple to disable the security of an iPhone seized during a drug investigation. The Justice Department then appealed to a district court judge.

After filing that appeal, prosecutors notified the magistrate in the San Bernardino case that a third party had demonstrated a new technique which could access the iPhone in question.

The Justice Department disclosed the new technique to the judge one day after the demonstration, and then confirmed its success on Monday, according to court filings, though it did not reveal how its solution works.

The U.S. government did not disclose any details in a letter to the Brooklyn judge on Tuesday. Instead, prosecutors only agreed with a request by Apple to delay briefing deadlines in the case, and said it would update the court by April 11 as to whether it would "modify" its own request for Apple's assistance.

The Apple logo GETTY IMAGES

In court filings the company has said it would want to question any potential government claim that the technique which worked in California would not work in Brooklyn. REUTERS

Digital dispute

The legal dispute between the U.S. government and Apple has been a high-profile test of whether law enforcement should have access to encrypted phone data.

Apple, supported by most of the technology industry, says anything that helps authorities bypass security features will undermine security for all users. Government officials say that all kinds of criminal investigations will be crippled without access to phone data.

Police release video of suspect in Stonewall transgender rape

Police have released a surveillance image of a man they believe may have raped a transgender woman in a bathroom at The Stonewall Inn Saturday night.

The unidentified victim, 25, was in a unisex bathroom at the historic gay bar in Manhattan's Greenwich Village when the attacker allegedly entered the bathroom, groped and sexually assaulted her, police said. The attack allegedly happened around 11:40 p.m.

Surveillance of the suspect NYPD

The NYPD's Gay Officers Action League tweeted out an image of the man and described him as a 250 pound, 45-year-old, Hispanic male who wore a grey suit and had a goatee.

The investigation is ongoing and those with information can call 212-860-6857 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-577-TIPS (8477).

The Stonewall Inn was given Historic Landmark status by New York City last year. MATTHEW LEE

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NJ owner of SwerveCast allegedly involved in underage prostitution

In addition to the underage allegations, Robert Ianuale has also been accused of offering $100 to SwerveCast users as incentive to sexually assault a 25-year-old New York woman.

JASON NUCKOLLS
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The New Jersey owner of an online broadcasting service allegedly allowed teenage girls to get paid for engaging in sex acts for a private Internet audience and encouraged his viewers to sexually assault a New York City woman in exchange for $100.

Robert Ianuale, 32, of Hazlet, now faces charges including child endangerment, distribution of child pornography, promoting the prostitution of a minor and financial facilitation of criminal activity stemming from accusations that he used SwerveCast, his online broadcasting platform, to profit from users paying to watch underage sex acts, according to an Associated Press article reported by Philly.com.

"Profiting off of the sexual abuse of juveniles is intolerable. We cannot allow innocent children to fall prey to online abusers and predators seeking to line their pockets through the sexual exploitation of their victims," Acting Monmouth County Prosecutor Christopher J. Gramiccioni said in a statement quoted by New Jersey 101.5.

Ianuale FACEBOOK

"Profiting off of the sexual abuse of juveniles is intolerable."
Gramiccioni

In addition to the underage allegations, Ianuale has also been accused of offering $100 to SwerveCast users as incentive to sexually assault a 25-year-old New York woman outside her office and broadcast the act online, the Philly.com AP report added.

If convicted of all charges, Ianuale, who used the online moniker "Fist Pump," could face up to 20 years in prison and supervision for life after release, according to 101.5, which added that officials believed more underage victims may have been involved in similar SwerveCast content.

Ianuale was being held in Monmouth County Jail on $450,000 bail, the AP reported at Philly.com.

Banksy's "Happy Choppers" is seen in the lower right corner. GETTY IMAGES

Banksy works up for auction

A collection of works by elusive British graffiti artist Banksy, who enthralled New York with art left on walls and other unorthodox means in 2013, is expected to sell for more than $500,000 when it goes up for auction in southern California next month.

The top lot at Julien's Street and Contemporary Art Auction is Banksy's 2002 work "Happy Choppers," an original aerosol stencil of military helicopters decked out with a pink bow created in central London, that is expected to sell for about $150,000.

The artist's "Boy Painting Pink Heart," featuring a boy painting a heart on the wall of a London house in 2005, is expected to fetch up to $120,000.

Other Banksy works include "Nola," a 2009 Hurricane Katrina image of a girl holding an umbrella with rain falling inside of it, and "Bomb Love" and "Crazy Horse Car Door" from an installation he created during his spell in New York in 2013.

The highest price for a work of art by Banksy was struck in 2008 when "Keep It Spotless" was sold for $1.8 million at Sotheby's in New York.

The auction will take place at Julien's Auctions in West Hollywood on April 29, and will also include works by Shepard Fairey, Damien Hirst, Jeff Koons and Andy Warhol.

REUTERS

BRIEFS

Staten Island babysitter indicted for murder in torture, death of toddler: DA

A Staten Island woman was slapped with a 12-count indictment — including charges of murder in the first and second degree — for brutally torturing and slowly killing a defenseless toddler she was babysitting earlier this year.

Gloria Fields, 31, was charged with allegedly torturing 17-month-old Anthony Delgado for three days, causing injuries throughout the child's body that led to his death.

According to prosecutors, on and between Feb. 19 and Feb. 21, Fields intentionally caused the young boy's death through blunt-force trauma to his head, as well as shaking him and/or slamming or throwing the child so he would hit his head on a hard surface or object.

Fields also allegedly slammed the boy's head into the ground while he was strapped in a stroller, authorities said.

The torture allegedly continued as Fields inserted a pencil into the child's anus and rectum for several days, causing cuts to both areas, and tearing of internal organs.

The toddler's injuries — which covered the boy's entire body except for his feet — were sustained over a course of three days, prosecutors said, and occurred at various times inside the boy's home at 195 Steuben Street in Staten Island and also inside the Buffalo Exchange thrift store at 332 East 11th Street in Manhattan.

According to the New York Daily News, authorities said Fields — who is allegedly schizophrenic — had used heroin several times while taking care of the child. She had also smoked marijuana.

Fields initially told police Anthony had sustained the injuries after falling while playing in the park, but later allegedly confessed to torturing the boy once his death was deemed a homicide.

ANGY ALTAMIRANO

Police investigating wind's role in worker's deadly fall from New Jersey building

Strong winds may have played the part in the death of a Teaneck, New Jersey, building manager who took a fatal seven-story fall on Tuesday.

Clifford Lemay, 57, was found in the courtyard of the Glenpointe Complex on Frank Burr Boulevard just after 7 a.m., ABC7 reported.

According to CBS3, he was on the building's roof checking for damage following high winds from the night before when he fell.

"At this time, it appears that Mr. Lemay's death can be attributed to a horrific accident and no foul play is suspected," Teaneck Police said in a statement to media.

The investigation is ongoing.

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NYC to get 'Hardest Working City' award

The Big Apple is set to receive an award next month celebrating the hard work of men and women throughout the city.

New York City will be the first metropolis this year to receive the Freightliner Trucks Hardest Working Cities award, which honors cities promoting community growth and innovation.

Since launching last year, Freightliner Trucks — a leading heavy-duty truck manufacturer in North America — has given six cities the award, including Indianapolis, Salt Lake City, Nashville, Los Angeles, Toronto and Dallas.

"They don't call us the city that never sleeps for no reason. We're the largest regional economy in the country, we employ more than 230,000 in manufacturing jobs, and are in one of the biggest building booms of our generation," said Ken McCullough, northeast general manager for Freightliner Trucks.

New York City will formally be given the award on April 21 in Queens at Citi Field's Jackie Robinson Rotunda.

Before the award, Freightliner will thank workers by making gift and food deliveries to job sites around the city.

To decide the "Hardest Working Cities," Freightliner reviewed about 400 metropolitan census areas in the United States and Canada in 11 different data categories.

ANGY ALTAMIRANO

"They don't call us the city that never sleeps for no reason."

McCullough

BRIEFS

Suspect in Astoria slashing spree charged with murder

A man accused of fatally stabbing a man, slashing another's face and burning a third victim before being shot by police himself in Queens was arraigned from his hospital bed last week.

James Dillon, 23, faces a number of charges, including a single count of second-degree murder, DNAInfo reported.

Officers responded to a reported assault around 11:30 a.m. on March 6 near 25-69 36th Street, finding a 39-year-old man who was slashed in the head and face, according to police. Another call came in at 3:09, again reporting an assault, this time near 38-18 Astoria Boulevard. There, police said they determined Dillon was also responsible for stabbing a 55-year-old man and burning a 61-year-old found at the scene.

Dillon was later found by two officers walking near his home on 36th Street. He was shot by police after allegedly spraying them with accelerant and burning their hands. Police told DNAInfo that they continue to investigate. CHRIS CAESAR

Chick-Fil-A might open third NYC shop

New York City's second Chick-Fil-A location is opening this Saturday in Midtown.

CRISTABELLE TUMOLA
@MetroNewYork
letters@metro.us

Chick-Fil-A CREATIVE COMMONS

Controversial chicken sandwich chain Chick-Fil-A is looking to spread its wings and open a third location in New York City.

Sources have told the New York Post that the eatery is "in talks" to open its third Manhattan restaurant at One Madison. It will be a prime location for the fast-food joint, as the address is home to a luxury condo tower on East 23rd Street, according to the Post, where Tom Brady and Gisele Bundchen own an apartment.

The retail space at One Madison has been vacant since 2009, the Post added. When the publication reached out to its owner, Abe Feldman of Rockfeld Group, he "declined to say whether a lease was pending."

Chick-Fil-A rep Carrie Kurlander said, "We have nothing to confirm regarding this site."

In February, Chick-Fil-A did confirm the opening date of its second location, at West 46th Street and Sixth Avenue near Rockefeller Center, this Saturday.

That restaurant will join the city's first location at 37th Street and Sixth Avenue, which opened in October 2015. The new place will aim to serve a high volume of customers and will be open from 6:30 a.m. to midnight, Monday through Saturday.

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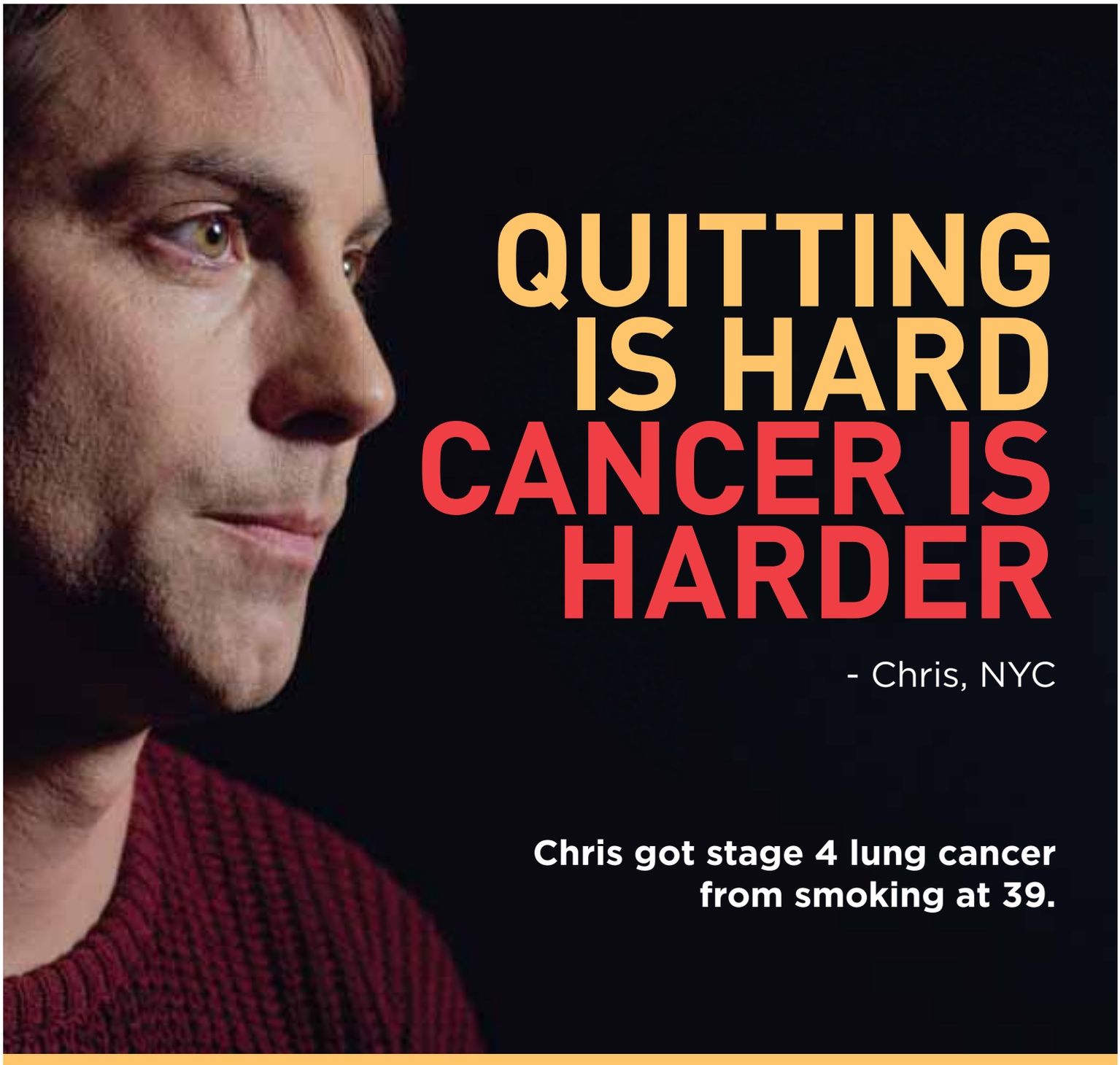

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NYC

Three women charged with scamming $10,000 from elderly Queens woman

The trio is accused of approaching their victim with a purse full of "found" cash and a scheme to bilk her.

ANGY ALTAMIRANO
@MetroNewYork
letters@metro.us

Three alleged criminals are facing time behind prison bars after they scammed an 88-year-old woman into giving them over $10,000 in cash last year, according to authorities.

Juanita Lamb, 57, of Engelwood, New Jersey; Deanna Rhett, 59, of Manhattan, and Donna E. Saunders, 60, of the Bronx were arraigned Tuesday on an indictment charging them with third-degree grand larceny and third-degree criminal possession of stolen property.

According to Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown, on Aug. 1, 2015, at about 1:30 p.m., the victim was approached by Saunders, who started a conversation with her at the intersection of 77th Street and 31st Avenue in Jackson Heights.

While they were talking, the two were then allegedly approached by Rhett, who showed the elderly victim a purse filled with what appeared to be $100,000 in cash, authorities said. Rhett then said she found the purse on the floor and was willing to share the money if the victim helped pay the taxes to it.

The third woman, Lamb, then allegedly approached them in a Buick car, offered the victim a ride home and the four women agreed to meet on Aug. 3, 2015, to pay the taxes and share the money, prosecutors said.

The 88-year-old was allegedly picked up two days later at her Queens home and taken to the Queens County Savings Bank, where she went in alone, according to authorities, and withdrew $10,300 to pay the taxes.

Once she got back in the car, the victim handed the money to Rhett and then the three women drove the victim back to her home to get proof of address, prosecutors said.

When the victim came back out of her home, the three women and the car were gone.

Members of the NYPD's Organized Theft Squad later stopped the women's car and allegedly discovered $3,100 from the floor of the driver's seat, $4,100 from the floor of the front passenger seat and $3,100 from Saunders' waistband.

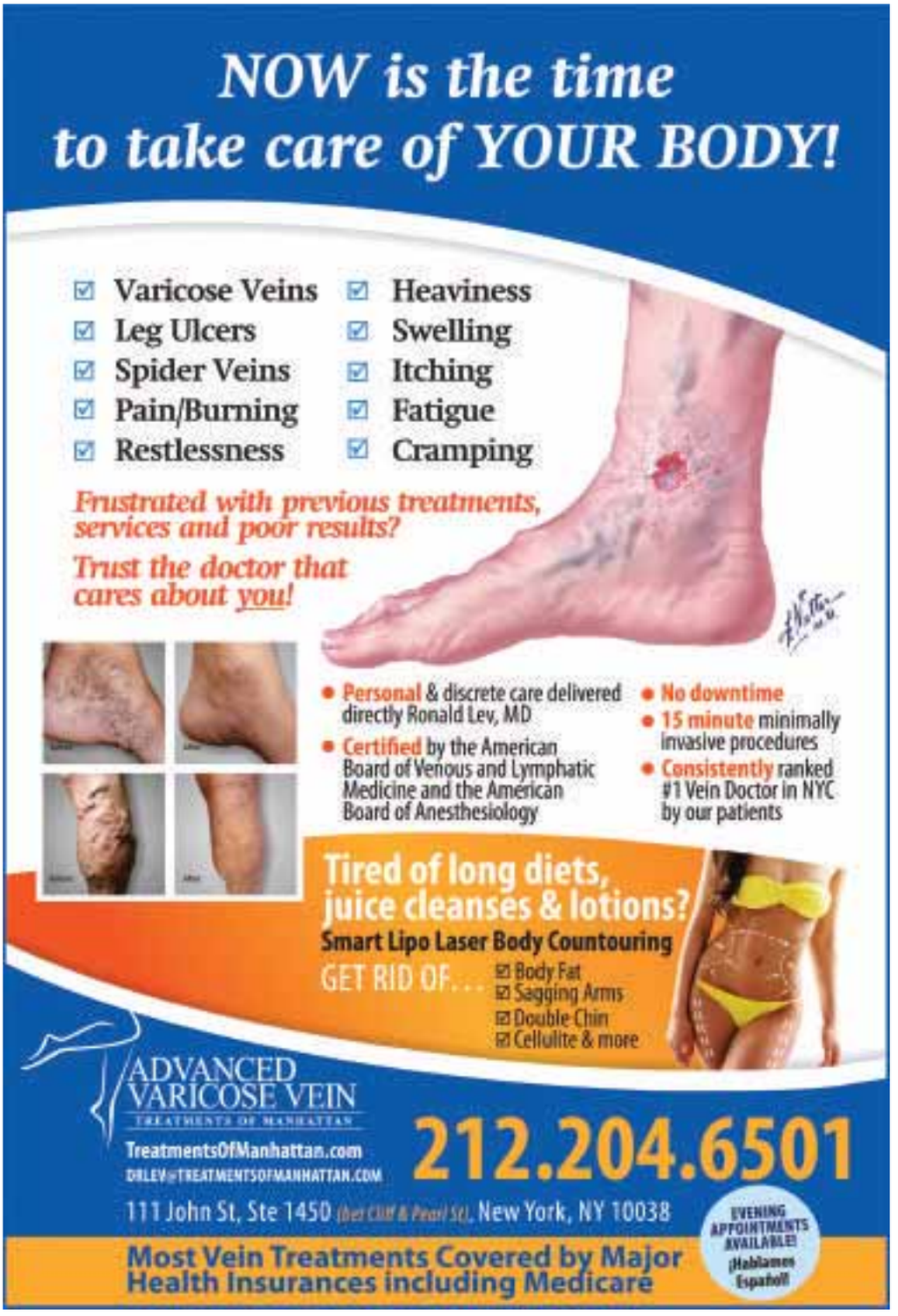
> ***"Such scammers often target older people because they often live alone, away from friends and family, and have available financial assets."***
> Brown

According to authorities, police also found a collection of wigs in various colors and various pieces of paper that looked like $100 bills but instead had the words "for theatrical use" on them.

"There are many variations of the 'found money' scam. In this particular case, the defendants are accused of approaching their victim with a purse full of 'found' cash and offering to share the money with her — if she helped them with paying the taxes on the money," Brown said. "Such scammers often target older people because they often live alone, away from friends and family, and have available financial assets, such as savings, pensions and social security retirement benefits."

If convicted on the charges, the women face up to seven years in prison.

An elderly Queens woman was scammed out of $10,000. FILE PHOTO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Patty Duke, Oscar-winning actress from Queens, dies at 69

Oscar-winning American actress Patty Duke, widely known for the 1960s show "The Patty Duke Show," died Tuesday, her representative told Reuters. She was 69 years old.

Duke died Tuesday morning in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, from sepsis due to a ruptured intestine, her spokesman Mitchell Stubbs said.

"She was a wife, a mother, a grandmother, a friend, a mental health advocate and a cultural icon. She will be greatly missed," Stubbs said.

Born Anna Duke in Elmhurst, Queens, New York in 1946, the actress began working as a child in commercials, television and on stage.

Patty Duke GETTY IMAGES

She won a best supporting actress Oscar for playing deaf-blind author and activist Helen Keller in 1962's "The Miracle Worker" at age 16, and later won an Emmy for playing Keller's instructor Annie Sullivan in 1979's TV movie of the same name.

The actress also starred in her own sitcom, "The Patty Duke Show" from 1963 to 1966, and had a role in 1967's "Valley of the Dolls."

She became president of the Screen Actor's Guild in the 1980s, and also became an advocate for mental health issues after being diagnosed with bipolar disorder in 1982.

The actress was married four times and has three children, including "Lord of the Rings" actor Sean Astin and "The Facts of Life" actor Mackenzie Astin.

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FBI warned Dutch officials about El Bakraoui brothers

A series of missteps and blunders by Belgium's security and intelligence agencies have come to light since the attacks.

Khalid El Bakraoui INTERPOL HANDOUT

The FBI told Dutch police that two brothers were being sought by Belgian authorities a week before the pair blew themselves up in suicide attacks in Brussels, the Dutch interior minister said on Tuesday.

Ard van der Steur was responding by letter to questions from Dutch legislators about Belgian brothers Ibrahim ('Brahim') and Khalid El Bakraoui, who prosecutors say took part in the March 22 attacks which killed 35 people, excluding the attackers.

Ibrahim was deported to the Netherlands from Turkey in July 2015, a month after being picked up by Turkish police near the Syrian border. The Netherlands said that when he arrived, his name did not appear on any blacklists so he was not detained. Why he was not deported to Belgium is not clear.

"On March 16, the FBI informed Dutch police over the fact that both brothers were sought by Belgian authorities," the minister wrote.

Van der Steur said the FBI told the Dutch authorities that Ibrahim was sought by the Belgian authorities for "his criminal background," while Khalid was wanted for "terrorism, extremism and recruitment."

In an earlier version of the letter, the minister wrote that the FBI had informed the Dutch authorities of the two brothers, without mentioning that they were wanted by Belgium.

This information was then shared at a meeting between Belgian and Dutch authorities on March 17, the minister wrote. REUTERS

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Judge refuses to toss model's defamation lawsuit against Cosby

Bill Cosby on Tuesday lost his bid to throw out a defamation lawsuit brought against the comedian and his former lawyer by supermodel Janice Dickinson, clearing the way for a trial in the sensational case.

Dickinson claims in the Los Angeles Superior Court lawsuit that Cosby and his former attorney, Martin Singer, defamed her when they told the media that she invented her account of being drugged and raped by Cosby in 1982.

"It was a big victory for us today and we're very, very pleased," said Dickinson's attorney, Lisa Bloom.

"The court ruled that we will go to trial against Bill Cosby. We've been fighting for almost a year so Janice Dickinson can prove her claims of defamation against him," Bloom said.

The attorney representing Cosby, 78, in the defamation suit, Christopher Tayback, referred calls by Reuters to a spokeswoman who could be reached for comment. Singer also could not immediately be reached on Tuesday.

Dickinson, 61, is among more than 50 women who have accused Cosby of sexual assault, often after allegedly plying them with drugs or alcohol.

Pennsylvania prosecutors late last year filed charges against Cosby related to an alleged 2004 sex assault, just days before the statute of limitations was about to expire. He is currently awaiting trial.

Bill Cosby GETTY IMAGES

In her lawsuit against Cosby, filed last May, Dickinson recounts a 1982 incident in which the comic invited her to dinner in Lake Tahoe, California. She believed she was drugged and raped that evening, but did not tell police for fear of retaliation. REUTERS

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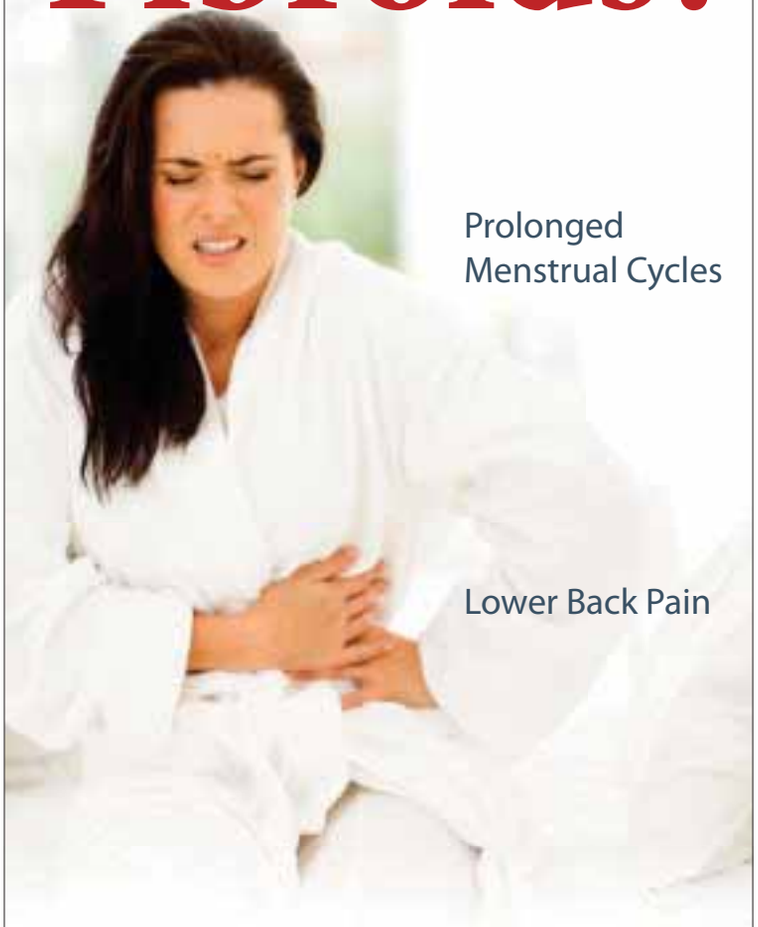

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Baby Boomers May Avoid Knee Surgery With Modern Arthritis Treatments

Doctors say these two factors are the keys to knee arthritis treatment success and relieving pain without surgery

By Matt Edgar

America's Health Writer

New York City - Everyone has said it at one time or another. If I had only known about "this" sooner - things would be very different today.

That's what many knee arthritis pain sufferers are saying about this technology and treatment.

"We all know that countless lives are being saved every year because of early detection and better treatment of cancer," noted the clinic director at the Downtown Medical in New York City. "*The same holds true for treating knee arthritis pain. I believe we are having so much success at Downtown Medical because of two factors: One is we are using advanced medical technology and treatments a lot of clinics do not use. And second, the word has spread to our community and so many knee arthritis sufferers are coming in sooner. And the earlier we can treat knee arthritis - the better the results. The key to avoiding knee replacement surgery is doing the correct treatments as soon as possible."*

What is the "correct treatment?"

"That depends," said the director. *"There is no one answer when it comes to medical conditions and knee arthritis is no different. That's why, if you have knee pain, you should have it evaluated by a doctor who deals with and treats knee pain every day,"* added the director.

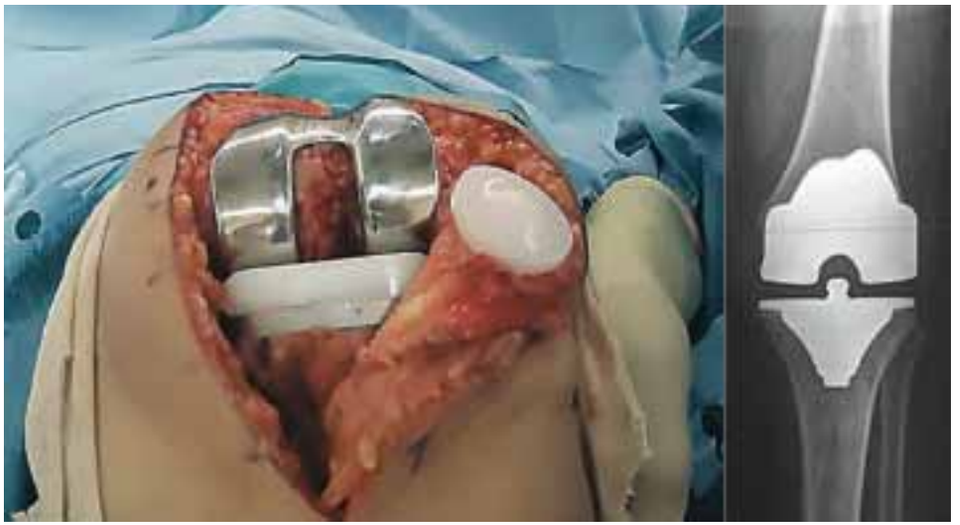
For many knee arthritis pain sufferers the right treatments is viscosupplementation. In this treatment, a preparation of Hyaluronic acid (such as Hyalgan) is injected directly into the knee joint.

Hyaluronic acid is a natural lubricant and shock absorber of your joints and is found to be decreased in arthritis sufferers. This is similar to running your car low or without oil. Obviously, the sooner you put oil back in the car - the less damage will be done. That's why some doctors feel early viscosupplementation gets the best results and is so important for avoiding surgery.

The director, believes one of the most important factors for the success of viscosupplementation is making sure you are getting it into the joint space. That's why the doctors at Downtown Medical use advanced imaging technology called a "C-Arm."

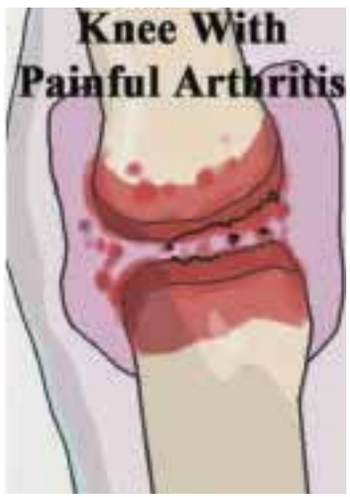
A C-Arm allows the doctor to see into the joint and actually watch the injection go where it is supposed to. Research shows that performing injections without digital imaging can result in missing the joint space as much as 30% of the time. If you had viscosupplementation treatments without advanced imagining and did not get good results - this may be why.

"If you have knee arthritis pain, viscosupplementation might be the answer you are looking for. The keys are to not wait, get a good evaluation from an expert and make sure advanced digital imaging (C-Arm) is used to make sure you have the best chance for success."



Can This Be Avoided? Total knee replacement is serious surgery requiring months of rehabilitation. Some doctors think modern treatments done early enough can keep baby boomers from going under the knife.

Everyone Wants Proof: In the artist simulated drawings above, picture #1 is a normal, pain-free knee. There is no arthritis and the knee can move and bend freely without pain.



Pain - the red is a knee joint with painful osteo-arthritis. Arthritis causes the joint space to decrease, grinding, stiffness, decreased motion, bone spurs, swelling and a lot of pain.

Successful Treatment - Hyalgan (blue) being precisely injected directly into the knee joint using laser guided hologic imaging. Advanced imaging allows treatments to be as precise as possible. Hyalgan can lubricate the joint and decrease pain.

Failed Treatment - the injection (and Hyalgan) misses the joint space. Research shows this occurs up to 30% of the time without the use of laser guided hologic imaging to guide the injection. This is why Hyalgan may not have worked for you.

Knee Pain Screenings Offered To Help Determine If New York Metro Area Residents Qualify For Popular Treatment

Knee pain sufferers have limited time to claim knee pain screening to see if all-natural knee arthritis treatment might work for them

If you qualify for this treatment, it might be one of the happiest days of your life.

That's because, for the past year and a half, hundreds of knee pain sufferers have flocked to Downtown Medical New York City.

That's when their specially trained-doctors added Hyalgan treatments to their already successful comprehensive knee pain relief program.

Viscosupplementation is unique because - even-though it is manufactured by a pharmaceutical company, it is NOT considered a drug because it is a natural substance with an incredible story.

Why So Many Want It

You see, when you suffer with arthritis - the lubricating fluid (synovial fluid) in your knee joint dries up.

This means instead of gliding smoothly - your bones start to rub and grind against each other.

This causes a little pain in the beginning - but over time the pain steadily gets worse until it is excruciating.

Like "Joint Oil"

Viscosupplementation works so well because it is like 'joint oil." It is a natural substance that contains one of the natural building blocks of the synovial fluid that lubricates your knee.

Scientists and researchers discovered this natural building block to synovial fluid in the rooster's comb - that big red thing on top of the roosters head. It is extracted from the roosters comb, purified and concentrated.

When it is injected directly into your knee joint, it is like squirting oil on a rusty door hinge.

Viscosupplementation allows your joints to glide more smoothly eliminating a lot of the rubbing, grinding and pain.

Can Supplements Do The Same Thing?

No. Glucosamine and chondroitin and other supplements are much different. You can only get this from a doctor and it often helps knee pain sufferers who got limited or no success from glucosamine and chondroitin. Beware of unsubstantiated claims made by supplements to do what this advanced medical procedure does.

Why You Should Try This Even If You've Already Had Similar Treatments Without Results...

"We have been able to help so many knee pain sufferers - even many who have already tried other injections like Synvisc, Supartz, Orthovisc and even Hyalgan. We use special and very advanced advanced low dose video flouroscopy imaging called "Hologic Digital Imaging" so we can see right into the joint. This allows us to put the Viscosupplementation exactly where is needs to be. Studies show doctors doing joint injections without flouroscopy miss the joint up to 30% of the time." said the director of Arthritis Treatment at Downtown Medical.

Downtown Medical is a state of the art medical facility offering only the best technology.

And that's not all - Downtown Medical has a complete knee relief program called "P.AC.E." to make sure you get the most pain relief and the best possible results from treatment.

"Every case is individual. Some patients get quite a bit of relief right away - others take a little more time. But most have been extremely happy. We've noted results lasting no less than 6 months for many but up to 2 years for some patients.. Patients who were suffering for years with bad knee pain are getting their lives back... going for walks again and exercising. It's amazing to see. They tell all their friends - that's why we are swarmed. I can't tell you how many patients have cancelled their total knee replacement surgeries." added the director.

How To Get I

If you have knee pain, the director would like to invite you for a no obligation screening to see if you are a candidate for Hyalgan treatments and the P.AC.E program.

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Medicare
AARP United Health Care
Oxford
... and others

Advanced Medical Technology Can Make All The Difference: This advanced digital imaging called a C-arm allows doctors to see directly into the knee joint so treatments are precise and the Hyalgan actually goes where it is supposed to. Studies show that injections done without digital imaging can miss the joint up to 30% of the time. This is one reason Hyalgan or other Viscosupplementation may not have worked for you. Downtown Medical uses this C-arm for every Hyalgan treatment.

All you have to do is call 800-227-KNEE (5633) right now and when the scheduling specialist answers the phone tell her you would like your no obligation "Knee Pain Screening." The specialists at Downtown Medical can only accept a limited amount of new patients each month for this screening - so if you are interested please call now. Your no obligation screening will only take about 25-30 minutes... you will get all your questions answered and leave knowing if you have possibly found the solution to your knee pain.

And here's something really important - Viscosupplementation treatments and the P.AC.E program are covered by most insurance and medicare. To schedule your no obligation screening or if you have any questions call 800-227-KNEE (5633).

If You Can Answer Yes -You Are Eligible For A Knee Arthritis Screening With The Experts At Downtown Medical

- **Do you have pain and osteoarthritis (arthritis) of the knee?**
- **Have you tried other treatments such as NSAIDS and other anti-inflamatory medications without success?**
- **Have you already tried viscosupplementation (Hyalgan, Suparz, Synvisc) without satisfactory results?**

If you answered yes to any of these questions - give Downtown Medical a call and schedule your no obligation knee pain screening 800-227-KNEE (5633).

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Five ex-employees of Bernie Madoff seek reversal of convictions

A federal appeals court on Tuesday expressed uneasiness with how a federal prosecutor invoked the civil rights movement in asking a mostly black jury to find five white employees of Bernard Madoff's firm guilty of helping him carry out his Ponzi scheme.

Questions by members of the three-judge panel of the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New York suggested the court would likely uphold the 2014 convictions of the five employees of Madoff's firm.

But some members of the panel appeared nonetheless critical of the arguments made at the close of a six-month trial by the prosecutor, who a trial judge said made remarks that were "ill-conceived and unworthy" of his office's stature.

Daniel Bonventre served as Director of Operations for Madoff Investment Securities and was sentenced to 10 years in prison. GETTY IMAGES

"This is the last thing the jury heard before it deliberates, so a rebuttal has to be handled in a responsible way," U.S. Circuit Judge John Walker said. "And I'm not sure it was."

The five employees were among 15 people who pleaded guilty or were convicted at trial in connection with Madoff and his firm, Bernard L. Madoff Investment Securities LLC.

Madoff is serving a 150-year prison term after pleading guilty in 2009 to running a scheme that cost investors an estimated $17 billion or more in principal.

The five employees included former back office director Daniel Bonventre; portfolio managers Joann Crupi and Annette Bongiorno; and computer programmers Jerome O'Hara and George Perez.

On appeal, they cited as improper statements made during rebuttal arguments by a prosecutor, Randall Jackson, that called the defendants' arguments "ridiculous" and "absurd," and referenced movies including the "Godfather" series.

Jackson, who is black and is now in private practice, also asked jurors to approach their deliberations with the same "courageous approach" as Constance Baker Motley, a civil rights lawyer who became the first black woman federal judge in 1966.

The 12-member jury included six black jurors and one Latino.

"This is beyond the pale, and I think it was clear," said Andrew Frisch, a lawyer for Daniel Bonventre, the former back office director.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Aimee Hector acknowledged with hindsight that the arguments could have been handled differently, but said Jackson's comments were in response to defense arguments that jurors should have the courage to acquit.

"This rebuttal did not cross the line," she said.

The employees are serving prison terms ranging from 10 years for Bonventre; six years for Crupi and Bongiorno; and two-and-a-half years for O'Hara and Perez.

REUTERS

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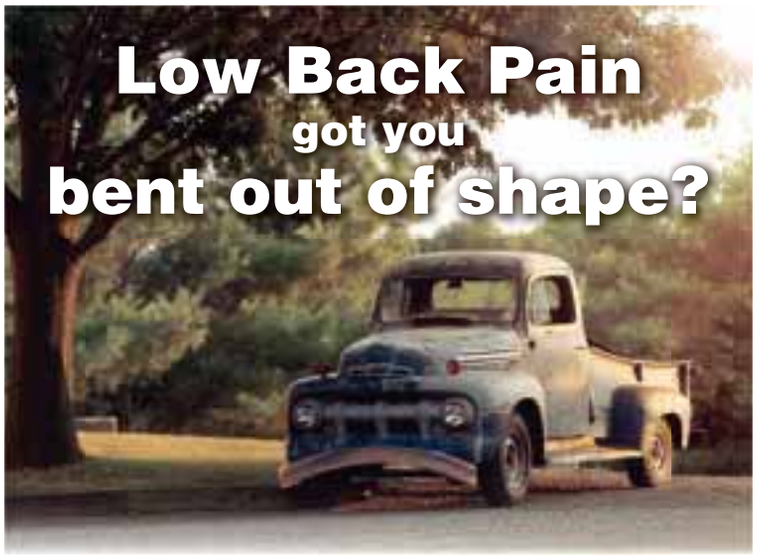

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RACE FOR THE WHITE HOUSE

Trump's campaign manager charged by police in Florida

Police in city of Jupiter charged Lewandowski with intentionally grabbing and bruising the arm of Michelle Fields, then a reporter for the conservative news outlet Breitbart, when she tried to question Trump at a campaign event March 8.

Donald Trump's campaign manager, Corey Lewandowski GETTY IMAGES

Republican presidential front-runner Donald Trump's campaign manager, Corey Lewandowski, was arrested and charged with misdemeanor battery in Florida on Tuesday, the latest chapter in a raucous White House race marked by threats, insults and physical confrontations.

"Mr. Lewandowski is absolutely innocent of this charge," Trump's campaign said in a statement. "He will enter a plea of not guilty and looks forward to his day in court. He is completely confident that he will be exonerated."

Police released a video of the incident showing Fields walking alongside Trump and trying to question him. Lewandowski is seen grabbing her arm and pulling her backward. Previous videos of the incident had been obscured by people in the crowd.

At the time, Lewandowski called Fields "delusional" and said he never touched her.

Campaign rallies for Trump, the billionaire businessman who leads the race to become the Republican candidate in the Nov. 8 presidential election, have been marked by rowdiness and occasional clashes between protesters and supporters or security personnel.

His pugnacious campaign style, which includes personal insults directed at rivals and scathing criticism of protesters, has been criticized for encouraging physical altercations at his rallies.

The real estate mogul leads remaining rivals Ted Cruz, U.S. senator from Texas, and Ohio Gov. John Kasich in polls and in the number of delegates to the nominating convention, despite a concerted effort by the Republican establishment to stop him out of fear he will lead the party to defeat in November. REUTERS

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the word

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Divorce rumors swriling around the Beckhams

There always has to be some couple in Hollywood that is said to be on the brink of breaking up-dom, and this week it's David and Victoria Beckham, apparently. "There is a lot of buzz around the industry that David and Victoria are on the verge of a divorce. It's no secret that they lead separate lives," a source tells Radar Online. "They are waiting for a quiet time to make a short announcement about the status of their relationship. They don't want a lot of attention around it. There won't be any drama." They don't want everyone gawking over the hypothetical breakup of their 16-year marriage? How eccentric of them.

Charlize Theron balks at talk of ghosting Sean Penn

Charlize Theron has heard those rumors that she totally ghosted on Sean Penn before finally dumping him — you know, avoiding his messages and calls at all costs — and you know what? She doesn't appreciate that kind of talk.

"There is a need to sensationalize things," she tells WSJ magazine. "When you leave a relationship there has to be some f—ing crazy story or some crazy drama. And the f—ing ghosting thing, like literally, I still don't even know what it is. It's just its own beast. We were in a relationship and then it didn't work anymore. And we both decided to separate. That's it."

Sure, but aren't you glad you got out before all that El Chapo nonsense started? Or did you know something we didn't?

DAILY VIDEO

@ ENTERTAINMENTWEEKLY/INSTAGRAM

Archer reviews every James Bond movie

While I'm a pretty huge Bond fan, I'm more than comfortable admitting there are people more into the franchise — even fictional, animated, awesome super-spy people. Like Sterling Archer from Adult Swim's "Archer." So I'll happily defer to him (voiced by H. Jon Benjamin) as he reviews all the 007 titles — well, almost all of them — for Entertainment Weekly. His rating system may leave a lot to be desired, but you can't slight his passion for the material. And he's right, Charlie Brown does play it too safe.

Azealia Banks is no fan of the paparazzi

Azealia Banks probably wasn't in the best mood leaving a Manhattan court this week following her being charged with misdemeanor assault, harassment and disorderly conduct for an incident at a club last December, which explains why she nearly got into a dustup with photographers outside the courthouse. No blows were exchanged, but Banks took to Twitter later to post, "Taking pictures for the news has to be the whackest hustle ever. Just give it up and become a school picture photographer. Much safer." Clearly.

Wentworth Miller shuts down the fat-shamers

Hey, Internet, cool it, OK? Some smart aleck meme-makers tried to have a laugh at "Legends of Tomorrow" star Wentworth Miller's expense with an old side-by-side comparison of him in his "Prison Break" days and him a bit more out of shape six years ago. But here's the thing: Miller has heard your jokes before, and they have a not very funny punchline.

"Today I found myself the subject of an Internet meme. Not for the first time. This one, however, stands out from the rest," Miller writes on his Facebook page. "In 2010, semiretired from acting, I was keeping a low-profile for a number of reasons. First and foremost, I was suicidal."

He goes on to talk about how, during his lowest point, he'd used food as a comfort, and how being caught by the paparazzi and mocked by the Internet wasn't the best thing for him at the time.

"The first time I saw this meme pop up in my social media feed, I have to admit, it hurt to breathe," he writes. "But as with everything in life, I get to assign meaning. And the meaning I assign to this/my image is Strength. Healing. Forgiveness." So joke's on you, Internet.

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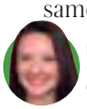
How to make friends as an adult

Work is not the only place to meet same-sex pals.



EMILY LAURENCE
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This month, Bumble, the girl-acts-first dating app, launched an offshoot called Bumble BFF, letting users make same-sex friends. However you attempt it, making friends as an adult can be even more awkward than dating. For help, we turn to GirlFriendCircles.com CEO and"Frientimacy" author, Shasta Nelson.

Research shows that bonding over two or three smaller common interests trumps bonding over one big one, like both being married or moms. ISTOCK

Consistency is key

"One thing [people] need to get a friendship off the ground is consistency, some way where you are seeing each other on a regular basis," Nelson tells us. "That's why a lot of people do make friends at work — it's built-in consistency." But if you feel like 40 hours a week is enough time with your co-workers, don't worry, it isn't your only option.

Nelson says religious places of worship, classes or organized sports teams are all ways to meet new people you will see consistently. "Think about where you want to put in time where you are seeing the same people regularly," she says.

Be the initiator

Or, you can take matters into your own hands and invite someone you want to get to know better to something, getting the momentum going. "If you're not joining an improve class or another activity and you're just meeting different people in different places, you have to take charge, reaching out, initiating and scheduling [a hang-out] to make sure that consistency gets off the ground," she says.

Avoiding online friend matching awkwardness

The other option of course is to go online. Shasta was way ahead of Bumble BFF, launching her own friendship matching site GirlFriendCircles.com six years ago. Meeting a friend match can be as nerve-wracking as meeting a dating match. Nelson says the key is not going into meeting thinking your friend match has to be your best friend.

"Unlike dating, you don't have to narrow it down to one," she says. "Just knowing other people in the city is great." She also says not to write someone off too quickly. "It takes most people about six times before to feel comfortable with them," she says.

What to talk about

Nelson says to focus on commonalities: "Research is showing that we don't need to have this big thing in common that we think we need. If someone is single, they assume their [potential friend] needs to be single too. Or if someone is a mom, that their potential friend needs to be a mom. It's easy for us to assume who we should be friends with, but research is showing we are not good predictors of that." What's more important are three or four smaller commonalities — like both being from the Midwest or both loving Thai — than one big thing.

The most encouraging part about making new friends is that there are so many different types: going out friends, gym friends, movie date friends… If you're open, initiate consistent meet-ups and are genuine, you'll have your own squad in no time.

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Kirsten Dunst just wants you to see her work

GETTY IMAGES

The "Midnight Special" co-star says she prefers TV, like "Fargo," to indies that might never be seen.

MATT PRIGGE
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Kirsten Dunst plays a mother whose son (Jaeden Lieberher) has mysterious superpowers in the sci-fi drama "Midnight Special." BEN ROTHSTEIN

When Kirsten Dunst plays a character who goes to dark places, that doesn't mean she goes to dark places herself.

"You know what's funny? You really need to be in a good place," Dunst tells us. "I think my best work is when I'm in a really happy place."

The actress didn't even feel her bleakest role to date — as a clinically depressed woman happy the apocalypse is around the corner in Lars Von Trier's "Melancholia," which won her the Best Actress trophy at Cannes — was a drag. "I had a great time on 'Melancholia.' I really did! I was so grateful to be working on an amazing role with a great auteur."

She felt the same way about "Midnight Special," a new sci-fi drama by Jeff Nichols ("Take Shelter," "Mud"). She plays a former cult member reuniting with an old flame (Michael Shannon) to save their son (Jaeden Lieberher), who has mysterious superpowers — ones strong enough to make him sought by government agents and religious fanatics alike.

Dunst, 33, has talked about her desire to start a family, but she didn't draw on that to play a mother, even one who has to contend with the possibility that her son, once he realizes the extent of his powers, may disappear from this realm entirely.

"I didn't think about that with this role at all," she explains. "I had enough things to draw from in my own life to relate to her emotions. I thought about who I care about in my life. We all have things in life that are huge — deaths in families, everything. I try not to think about that — that some day I'm going to die. Maybe one day when I have kids I'll think about it more."

Dunst also has to do this without much in the way of dialogue. Sarah doesn't speak much, and you have to glean her face — weathered and free of makeup ("It wasn't a vain role, that's for sure," she jokes) — to see everything she's thinking.

"I'm a silent film actress in this," Dunst says, smiling. To her that's a great thing. "I love not talking in films. Who talks that much in real life anyway? I definitely don't talk that much. It's kind of exhausting."

On TV

Movies are mostly superhero and kids movies these days. At the same time Dunst is reluctant to drown herself in films that are too small. "I personally find it hard to commit to some independent films," Dunst explains. "Sometimes you work really hard, you're not really being paid and it's not seen by anybody. Independent film is in a hard place right now, for sure. I'd rather be on television and have people see my work."

That's one reason she wound up on the second season of "Fargo," in a Golden Globe-nominated turn as beautician Peggy Blumquist. The long hours may have hurt, but she was still sad to say goodbye to her after only 10 episodes.

"To be honest, it was such a great role I could have kept playing it," Dunst says.

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'ENTERTAINMENT'

Gregg Turkington's fake comedian creation Neil Hamburger has long haunted live music shows, with his moth-eaten tux, natty comb-over and endless supply of intentionally terrible (and often genuinely tasteless) jokes. Hamburger's movie is just as aggressive, though in a different way: a hilariously depressing anti-comedy about how the poor guy's off-stage life is even more miserable than on. Enjoy!

Gregg Turkington brings Neil Hamburger to the movies with "Entertainment." **MAGNOLIA PICTURES**

'THE HUNTING GROUND'

Lady Gaga's song "Til It Happens to You" didn't win this year's Oscar, but her performance did draw more attention to the film that included it. And it needs the attention. Activist docs don't come more necessary than Kirby Dick and Amy Ziering's expose of college campus rape, which has been allowed to sustain and even flourish thanks to institutional incompetence and corruption.

"The Hunting Ground" **RADIUS_TWC**

'THE ASSASSIN'

Shu Qi in "The Assassin" **WELL GO USA**

Sorry, people expecting a martial arts movie about a female killer (Shu Qi) to be a rip-roaring a—kicker. Only maybe 5 percent of this one's running time is devoted to smackdowns, and when they come they're hilariously brief (though brutal). But what's bad for action junkies is great for art film heads. The latest from Taiwanese minimalist Hou Hsiao-hsien ("The Flight of the Red Balloon"), "The Assassin" spends most of its length hypnotically languishing on the downtime between nasty blows: observing Tang Dynasty rituals; hanging with people doing nothing but hanging. It's every bit as transportive as a Shaw Brothers spectacular — just in a very different way.

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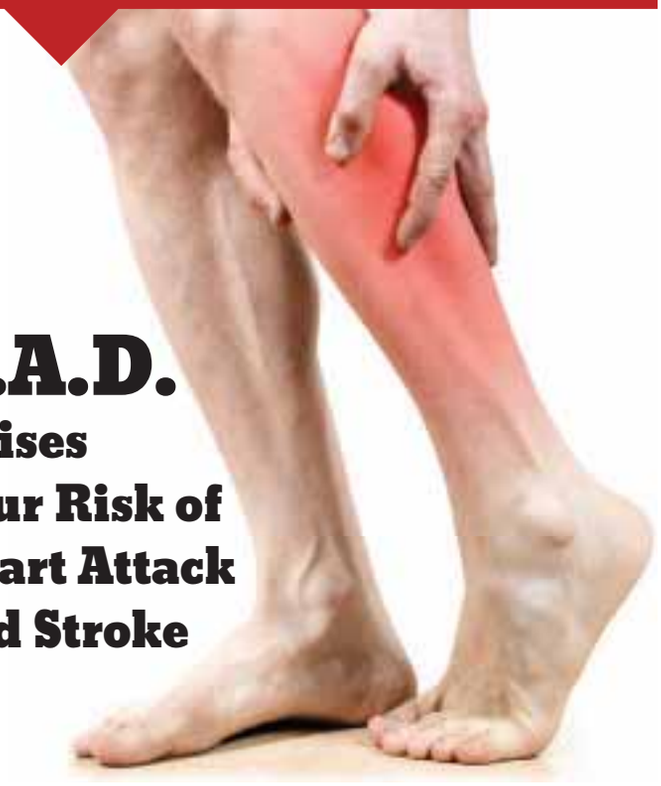

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At least we can agree Gal Gadot's Wonder Woman was awesome in "Batman v Superman." WARNER BROS. PICTURES

A plea for sanity over 'Batman v Superman'

Geek Girl in Hollywood

JENNA BUSCH
legionofleia.com

Blockbuster movie season got off to an early start last week when "Batman v Superman" was released in theaters. No, this is not a review. Honestly, it doesn't really matter what I thought of it. There have been endless pieces online, both for and against, and you've probably read them all. What this is about is the anger at differing opinions.

Critics weren't kind to the film, citing giant plot holes, odd character development (or lack of it), bad casting and the breaking of rules set in the story. (Superman can hear Lois but not his mom?) Yet the general public went to see the film in droves, and the ones who liked it talked about getting to see their favorite superheroes duke it out on the big screen and how cool that was. Everyone seemed to agree that Wonder Woman was pretty awesome.

I posted a quick review consisting of two sentences on my personal Facebook page. People lost it. I was "jumping on the bandwagon," "biased" (how, exactly?) and a jerk for daring to agree with most critics. The hate I got all over the Internet was pretty vicious, and largely from people who hadn't yet seen the film.

Now, I'm totally cool with disagreement, but this was attacking my opinion as if I and other critics have no right to feel differently than they do. We must be paid by the other side. Someone sent us gifts to change our opinion. How dare we like the lady in the film? (No, really. I got that a number of times. Gal Gadot was great. Very few people seem to disagree with that.)

This happened all over the Internet and from both sides. It's a problem all over the Internet, really. You believe something different so you're a terrible person and you clearly aren't in your right mind. You want to talk about politics in this manner? Sure. How people vote will affect the next four years of all our lives in major ways. But guys, this is a movie about superheroes. Rant and rail all you want about why it was good or why it was bad. Just don't attack someone else for disagreeing.

Really, what does that accomplish? I know we as geeks are often in disagreement about what we love. Marvel vs. DC, "Star Wars" vs. "Star Trek," Captain America vs. Iron Man. That stuff is opinion. Do you really hate the people who love the other side? Of course not.

So here's my plea: Stop being a jerk on the Internet. I know, I know. I'm not going to stop Web hate with one article. But maybe one of you will read this and think before you post? Maybe? Sigh.

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Hot 'Property': Hitting the books with the Scott brothers

HGTV's "Property Brothers" give us thier tips for buying — and not buying — a fixer-upper of your own.

MONICA WEYMOUTH
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It's a beautiful Saturday afternoon, but Drew Scott isn't exactly enjoying it. He's doing some weekend work on his home, and the pipes aren't cooperating.

"Our entire house smells like a sewer plant right now," he confesses.

"That's why you leave that kind of work to the professionals," chimes in his brother, Jonathan, without missing a beat.

It's this kind of good-natured, playful ribbing that took the Scott brothers from a horse farm in Vancouver to your TV screen. Competitive since they were children, the identical twins, now 37, bought their first home in high school and flipped it for a $50,000 profit. Today, Drew acts as the real estate expert while Jonathan takes care of the renovations (and, ahem, pipes) on their four incredibly popular shows for HGTV: "Property Brothers," "Property Brothers at Home," "Buying & Selling" and "Brother vs. Brother."

Perhaps surprisingly, the Scotts found time to write a book. Hitting shelves next week, "Dream Home: The Property Brothers' Ultimate Guide to Finding & Fixing Your Perfect House" serves as a companion of sorts to

Continued on page 26

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Continued from page 25

their shows.

"We can only take so many clients on the show, but we have all of this information that we've been accumulating and really want to share," says Drew. "The book is the second-best thing to having us do the work for you."

Here, they share their top tips for buying — or not buying — a fixer-upper of your own.

Be realistic about what you can fix

Even if you're a savvy real estate agent with a contractor twin brother, not every house is dream-home material. "Make sure to look at the things you can't change first," says Drew. "We've been renovating houses since the late '90s — any house can be made to look beautiful, but that doesn't mean you should. If the location isn't ideal, if there's a freeway right behind it, you might not be getting the value that you think." Even if the ZIP code is perfect, the structure has to be workable. "Make sure you find a house where the outer footprint is what you need," says Jonathan. "As soon as you start doing additions, you need approval from the city and the neighbors."

Inspection, inspection, inspection

Inspections are important for any home, but especially for fixer-uppers. Make sure you hire a nitpicky inspector, and don't be afraid to ask questions. "The most protection you have is before you buy the house," says Jonathan. "You want to make sure that your inspection is thorough. Any red flags, you want to look into them — and if there are multiple red flags, you want to reconsider."

Budget in the real world

By now, it shouldn't come as a shock that reality TV isn't quite real. Those picture-perfect houses you see the Scotts turn out on HGTV? You'll be paying more. "Don't say to your contractor, 'Well, Jonathan renovated the entire house for $40,000'—they hate that!" says Jonathan with a laugh. "What you don't see on 'Property Brothers' is that we're only doing three or four rooms for those prices, and we're not charging some fees."

Consider a designer

If you want an Instagram-worthy kitchen, don't leave that up to a contractor. "You probably have to work with a designer if you want something as beautiful as what you seen on TV," says Drew. "First look for a designer, and then ask what contractor they suggest."

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Host Jonathan Scott hangs a barn door over the pantry entrance in the renovated kitchen of Sandy Wright's home in Atlanta, Georgia, as seen on HGTV's "Property Brothers." GETTY IMAGES

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What it's like to be a NYCFC fan at Yankee Stadium on game day

NYCFC has quickly gained a large, loyal following in the Bronx.

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The average American soccer fan may not be as rowdy as their European counterparts, but judging by a day spent with the NYCFC's rabid "Third Rail" fanbase, it doesn't mean their fervor is to be taken lightly.

Last weekend's matinee match against the New England Revolution was an awesome display of stamina for the bleacher fans who stand for the full 90 minutes, chanting and serenading their hometown players' names, and singing songs in unison at the top of their lungs.

While the game itself was a fun experience, a 1-1 tie, the real action was in the bleachers — and even before kickoff.

Samantha from Hoboken isn't what you'd call a fervent soccer fan, but even she felt the excitement before entering Yankee Stadium.

"I'm with a friend, whose family has season tickets in a suite — the Legends suite," she said. "It's my first time in a suite at a game. I'm excited."

The exhilaration continued right into the stadium. The bowels featured numerous stations to take advantage of for the hardcore and casual fan alike, including the gift store — which the Yankees graciously allow NYCFC to take over and garnish with their merchandise, numerous food and drink kiosks, and family-friendly stations for free face painting and a stand where fans can adorn their hair to match NYCFC's blue and white colors.

One person who truly appreciates the ambiance that NYCFC matches offer is an avid fan named Anthony. The Staten Island native has been a fan since the franchise's inception and was as exuberant as any spectator in Section 237. The crescendo of Anthony's cheering came at the 10-minute mark when Thomas McNamara found the back of the net with a creative header. Almost simultaneously, the celebration commenced, equipped with frenetic towel waiving, streamers being tossed, and voluntary beer showers among the bleacher faithful.

NYCFC home games at Yankee Stadium already offer a unique atmosphere. GETTY IMAGES

The goal put the entire stadium into a frenzy, but perhaps none more than the Staten Islander, who was a very loud participant during many of the section's songs that were sung in unison.

Anthony said the atmosphere at every game is electric, and that as a season-ticket holder, he enjoys voicing his opinion and fandom as loudly as possible.

"I have season tickets. This is my first season with season tickets. Last year, I just went to games here and there," he said, adding soccer at the stadium is a better value than anything the NFL or NBA has to offer. "It's great because season tickets come out to like $25 a game. This is way more affordable, even though the drinks are still expensive as [heck]. It's way more affordable than going to a football game or the Knicks — especially since they stink."

Anthony added that while he doesn't personally know many of his fellow "Third Rail" fans, it's still a family atmosphere.

"It's an awesome experience being here. The team is awesome, and it's so much fun. It's kind of a tight-knit community between the supporters. There's Facebook gatherings and there's a website for the Third Rail, where you can learn all the chants and songs. It's great," he said.

About the only con is the amount of stamina it takes to be in the "Third Rail," as no fan sits during the entire 90-minute affair, with halftime being the only reprieve to take a load off and recuperate.

"Dude, it's a workout, and I'm out of shape, so I'm already done," he said during halftime, but added he's thankful there's finally a local team for which he thinks is worth rooting. "I'm a huge fan. I've always liked MLS, but I couldn't root for the [Harrison, New Jersey-based] Red Bulls, and I wasn't really a fan of the MetroStars either. So, when they announced we'd get a team, I was super excited."

Bronx cheer

During the player introductions, the "Third Rail" loudly screamed "sucks!" after every Revolution player intro. They then emphatically shouted the last name of every NYCFC player during his intro. The loudest cheers were for Italian National Team legend Andrea Pirlo, but the longest ovation was for Ghana's Kwadwo Poku.

Livin' on a prayer

The Islanders are still looking to sneak into the playoffs with seven regular season games remaining. Cal Clutterbuck and Co. will take on the Blue Jackets at Barclays Center Thursday (7 p.m., MSG+). GETTY IMAGES

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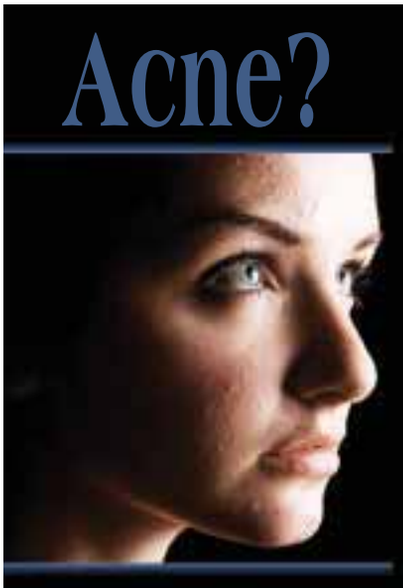

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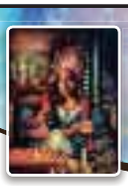

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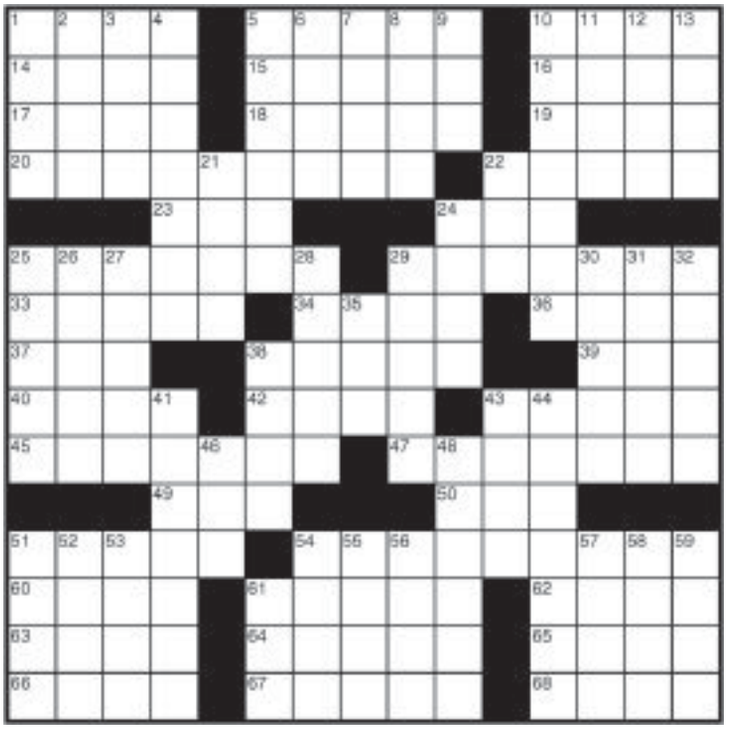

Across

1 Poker pair
5 In force
10 Wacky
14 Tough fiber
15 Give a lift
16 Opera tune
17 Ms. McClurg
18 Marquis's inferiors
19 Hunt's partner
20 Inconstant
22 Basilica parts
23 Zamboni's place
24 Foreman foe
25 Baroque composer
29 Willowy
33 St. Teresa's town
34 Arlene of old films
36 Lavish party
37 Tip of a pen
38 Broncos great John —
39 2001, to Ovid
40 Sine qua non
42 Warn loudly
43 Illustrious
45 Took for granted
47 Summit attendees
49 Fleur-de- —
50 Zoologist's eggs
51 Pint-sized
54 Ceremonial object (2 wds.)
60 Prepare apples
61 Cattle country
62 Steel- -- boots
63 Makes choices
64 — rings
65 Bond's alma mater
66 Dry run
67 Pie slice
68 Wynter or Carvey

Down

1 Excuse me!
2 Yield territory
3 Bahrain VIP
4 Not ordinary
5 Swerved
6 Jai —
7 Zhivago's love
8 — do you good!
9 Some, to Pierre
10 Shocking
11 Greek war god
12 Warm-hearted
13 Talks on and on
21 NCAA's Bruins
22 Stein filler
24 Ms. McBeal
25 "Wheel of Fortune" name
26 Wall climbers
27 Intuitions
28 Ran in neutral
29 "— We Dance?"
30 Kickboxer Jean-Claude Van —
31 Big name in glue
32 Attacks
35 Cobbler's tool
38 Hurricane centers
41 Most boring
43 The one you dig the most
44 Got used to
46 Thousand gees
48 When mammals became dominant
51 Kilt sporter
52 Have the blues
53 Martial —
54 Square of glass
55 Oklahoma town
56 Psyched up
57 Modicum
58 Lowly laborer
59 Ms. Ferber
61 Noisy dispute

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easy

5	2				3		9	
					5	4		2
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7						2		
			9		4			
		8						3
		1	3		2	6		8
2		3	5					
	8		4				2	7

hard

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	7	5		6				2
			5				3	
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8	6			5	3	9		4
	2				5			
9				8		5	4	
			3			8	2	

metro.us/horoscopes

Aries If you trust in yourself, you will make the right choices. Follow your heart. Don't fold under pressure. Revive an old idea or goal and modify it to fit current trends.

Taurus Speak with conviction in order to get what you want. A contract, interview or professional advancement is favored. Make a commitment and follow through on it.

Gemini Argument will be a waste of time. Take care of your needs and use discipline to bring about the changes in your life that will make you feel at ease.

Cancer Creative projects will bring you the most satisfaction. Be objective if asked for an explanation. How you present yourself and your beliefs will make a difference.

Leo You will be tempted to chase change, adventure and excitement. Take care of your responsibilities before moving on to more pleasurable activities.

Virgo Uncertainty will surface regarding joint ventures. Take a moment to evaluate your position, intentions and the probable outcome of your next move.

Libra Listen and learn. Use your life experience to help you figure out your next move. Don't feel the need to take on too much or overspend.

Scorpio A past acquaintance will tender you a tempting offer. Clear a space at home to allow you to turn this opportunity into something tangible. Celebrate with a loved one.

Sagittarius Your feelings and emotions will be manipulated if you give in to someone's persuasiveness. Protect your cash and possessions from theft. Avoid indulgence.

Capricorn Stick to what you know, and formulate a plan that is easy to execute without interference. Someone will create confusion if you work in conjunction with others.

Aquarius Get together with old friends. The encouragement you receive will push you in a direction that will help solve a pending problem. Bring a positive change.

Pisces Keep an open mind, but don't let anyone talk you into something you don't want to do. Stick to projects that you find interesting. EUGENIA LAST

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